

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJ: COMMENTS ON DRAFT CONTINGENCY STUDY: CHILE/PERU

1. I HAVE REVIEWED THE DRAFT CONTINGENCY STUDY: CHILE/PERU WITH
KEY MEMBERS OF MY STAFF. WE FOUND THE STUDY A USEFUL ONE.

2. THE IG/ARA MAY WISH TO EXPAND THE CONTINGENCY SECTION TO TAKE
INTO ACCOUNT:

A) OTHER SOURCES OF ARMS BESIDES THE USSR AND CUBA. ALTHOUGH THE
INTRODUCTION OF SOVIET ARMS HAS SPECIAL MENANCE INSOFAR AS US
INTERESTS
ARE CONCERNED, THE PURCHASE OF ARMS FROM OTHER SOURCES (WESTERN
EUROPEAN FOR EXAMPLE)
CAN HAVE SIGNIFICANT DESTABILIZING EFFECT ON REGIONAL SECURITY
AS WELL.

B.) POSSIBLE SETS OF ALLIANCES BETWEEN CHILE OR PERU AND OTHER
LATIN AMERICAN STATES WHICH COULD MAKE CONFLICT SETTLEMENT MORE
DIFFICULT.

C) THE POSSIBILITY THAT IF EITHER SIDE RESORTED TO SUBVERSION OR
UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, THE FIGHTING MIGHT DRAG ON SOME LENGTH OF TIME
AND POSSIBLY BE MORE DIFFICULT TO CONTROL.

3. KEY ISSUES. THE ARMS RACE ASPECTS OF THE ISSUE PROVIDES THE
SOVIETS WITH A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE THEIR INFLUENCE AND
INTRODUCE TENSIONS INTO THE AREA IF THEY WISH. IT FUELS THE
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TENSIONS IN THE REGION AND CAN HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE

ECONOMIES OF THE NATIONS INVOLVED. THE ARMS RACE ASPECT MAY BE WORTHY OF CLOSER STUDY. THE PERCEPTIONS OF THE NATIONS INVOLVED PLAY A PART IN THE DEFINITION OF WHETHER AN ARMS RACE HAS ALREADY BEGUN. THE EXISTING SITUATION IS EVIDENTLY SERIOUS ENOUGH TO HAVE PROMPTED HIGH LEVEL US ATTENTION, TO HAVE LED TO NOTICEABLE CONCERN ON THE PART OF THE CHILEANS, AND TO HAVE CAUSED VELASCO TO PROPOSE AN ARMS FREEZE. PERHAPS THE CONTINGENCY STUDY SHOULD CLARIFY AT WHAT POINT THE US WOULD FIND ITS INTEREST THREATENED BY NEW ARMS PURCHASES OR A DEEPENING MILITARY IMBALANCE. ALSO THE STUDY MENTIONS THAT PERU'S ARMS PURCHASE MAY BE INFLUENCED BY BRAZIL'S. PERHAPS THIS SHOULD BE EXAMINED FURTHER SO THAT ANY PROPOSED SOLUTION WILL DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH ALL POSSIBLE ROOTS OF THE PROBLEM.

4. RECOMMEND COURSES OF ACTION-GIVEN THE PROBABLE RESISTANCE BY PERU TO EVEN WELL INTENTIONED US INITIATIVES NOTED IN THE STUDY, THIS EMBASSY WONDERS IF USG ENCOURAGEMENT OF REGIONAL ARMS LIMITATIONS INITIATIVES AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES TO DEFUSE CHILE-PERU TENSIONS SHOULD NOT RATE HIGHER PRIORITY IN THE RECOMMENDED COURSES OF ACTION.

STEDMAN

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